

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a query, the method comprising: receiving from a first computer system a request to process a query at a second computer system, the request to process the query comprising a request to perform an operation on data and metadata at the second computer system;

the second computer system ~~utilizing metadata to process~~ processing the query including performing the operation on the data and the metadata to and generate a result for the query, the ~~data and the~~ metadata ~~utilized to process the query~~ not having been stored on the second computer system prior to the second computer system receiving the request to process the query; and

the second computer system returning the result of the query to the first computer system.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~50~~ 49, wherein the query includes the data and the metadata required to process the query.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~50~~ 49, wherein the query includes a pointer to the data and the metadata required to process the query.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein:
the data and the metadata required to process the query are stored on a third computer system separate from the second computer system; and
the pointer points to the data and the metadata stored on the third computer system.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the second computer system is in communication with the first computer system through a network.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein:
the second computer system receives the request to process the query from the first computer system in accordance with a first Internet protocol; and
the second computer system processes the query in accordance with a second Internet protocol.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the first computer system comprises a client machine and the second computer system comprises a server machine.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the metadata comprises information about objects.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the objects comprise one or more objects selected from the group consisting of tables, triggers and indexes.

60. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions tangibly stored thereon for processing a query, the program instructions comprising instructions operable to cause a data processor to:

receive from a first computer system a request to process a query at a second computer system, the request to process the query comprising a request to perform an operation on data and metadata at the second computer system;

utilize metadata to process the query including performing the operation on the data and the metadata to and generate a result for the query at the second computer system, the data and the metadata utilized to process the query not having been stored on the second computer system prior to the second computer system receiving the request to process the query; and

return the result of the query from the second computer system to the first computer system.

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 64 60, wherein the query includes the data and the metadata required to process the query.

63. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 64 60, wherein the query includes a pointer to the data and the metadata required to process the query.

64. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 63, wherein:
the data and the metadata required to process the query are stored on a third computer system separate from the second computer system; and
the pointer points to the data and the metadata stored on the third computer system.

65. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the second computer system is in communication with the first computer system through a network.

66. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 65, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

67. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 66, wherein:

the second computer system receives the request to process the query from the first computer system in accordance with a first Internet protocol; and

the second computer system processes the query in accordance with a second Internet protocol.

68. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the first computer system comprises a client machine and the second computer system comprises a server machine.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the metadata comprises information about objects.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 69, wherein the objects comprise one or more objects selected from the group consisting of tables, triggers and indexes.

71. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a query, the system comprising:
a first computer system to,

receive a request to process a query from a second computer system, the request to process the query comprising a request to perform an operation on data and metadata at the second computer system;

~~utilizing metadata to~~ process the query ~~including performing the operation on the data and the metadata to~~ and generate a result for the query, the data and

~~the metadata utilized to process the query~~ not having been stored on the first computer system prior to the first computer system receiving the request to process the query; and

return the result of the query to the second computer system.

72. (Cancelled)

73. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~72~~ 71, wherein the query further comprises the data and the metadata required to process the query.

74. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~72~~ 71, wherein the query further comprises a pointer to the data and the metadata required to process the query.

75. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 74, wherein:

the data and the metadata required to process the received query are stored on a third computer system separate from the first computer system; and

the pointer points to the data and the metadata stored on the third computer system.

76. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the first computer system is in communication with the second computer system through a network.

77. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 76, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

78. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 77, wherein:
the first computer system receives the request to process the query from the second computer system in accordance with a first Internet protocol; and
the first computer system processes the query in accordance with a second Internet protocol.

79. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the first computer system comprises a server machine and the second computer system comprises a client machine.

80. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the metadata comprises information about objects.

81. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 80, wherein the objects comprise one or more objects selected from the group consisting of tables, triggers and indexes.